

What is claimed is:

1. A method of facilitating commerce between shippers and carriers, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) capturing electronic shipment requests for available shipments, said electronic shipment requests originating from remote shippers and including shipment specific criteria and carrier access criteria;
- b) storing said electronic shipment requests in a database of a DMS;
- c) presenting said electronic shipment requests to remote carriers meeting the carrier access criteria;
- d) receiving carrier fulfillment offers responsive to said presented electronic shipment requests; and
- e) presenting said responsive carrier fulfillment offers to the remote shippers originating said electronic shipment requests.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said carrier fulfillment offers at least satisfy the shipment specific criteria.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

- f) selecting one or more carrier fulfillment offers for the available shipments.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of presenting said electronic shipment requests comprises the step selected from the group consisting of delivering said electronic shipment requests to the remote carriers in response to a remote carrier search of said DMS or electronically notifying the remote carriers meeting the carrier access criteria.

5. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of notifying the remote carriers when their fulfillment offers are accepted by the remote shippers.

6. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of facilitating an electronic payment from the remote shipper to the selected remote carrier.

7. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of storing said electronic shipment requests, said carrier fulfillment offers, and information relating to said electronic payment in said database of said DMS.

8. The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of analyzing the information stored in said database and presenting the information stored in said database to the shippers and carriers.

9. A method of claim 1 wherein the step of capturing said electronic shipment requests comprises the step of receiving manually entered electronic shipment requests through a user interface.

10. A method of claim 1 wherein the step of capturing electronic shipment requests comprises the step of receiving electronic shipment request from a remote automated system.

11. A method of claim 8 wherein the step of receiving shipment requests further comprises the step of defining and interpreting communication protocol employed by said automated system.

12. A method of facilitating commerce between shippers and carriers, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) capturing electronic shipment requests for available shipments, said electronic shipment requests originating from remote shippers and including shipment specific criteria and carrier access criteria;
- b) storing said electronic shipment requests in a database of a DMS;
- c) capturing electronic carrier availability data, said carrier availability data originating from remote carriers and including carrier specific criteria and shipper access criteria;
- d) storing said electronic carrier availability data in said database of said DMS;
- e) electronically comparing the access criteria of the shippers and the carriers to determine shipper and carrier compatibility;
- f) electronically notifying the shippers when carriers meeting the shipper access criteria are available;

g) electronically notifying the carriers when shippers meeting the carrier access criteria are available;

h) presenting said electronic shipment requests to remote carriers meeting the carrier access criteria; and

i) presenting said carrier availability data to remote shippers meeting the shipper access criteria.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the step of capturing said electronic shipment request comprises the step of retrieving manually entered electronic shipment requests through a user interface.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the step of capturing said electronic shipment requests comprises the step of retrieving said shipment requests delivered by a remote automated system.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of retrieving said shipment request introduced by said remote automated system further comprises the step of defining and interpreting the communication protocol and data delivered by said remote automated system.

16. A system constructed and arranged to facilitate commerce between shippers and carriers, said system comprising:

a) an interface communicating with remote shippers and carriers in a network environment to accept electronic shipment requests for available shipments and to accept carrier fulfillment offers, the electronic shipment requests identifying shipment specific criteria and carrier access criteria; and

b) a dynamic market system including a dynamic market engine, said dynamic market engine communicating with said interface to receive said electronic shipment requests and said carrier fulfillment offers and store said shipment requests and fulfillment offers in the database, said dynamic market engine cooperating with the database to present said electronic shipment requests to remote carriers meeting the carrier access criteria, receive carrier fulfillment offers responsive to said presented electronic shipment requests, and present said responsive carrier fulfillment offers to the remote shippers originating said electronic shipment requests.

17 The system of claim 14 wherein the carrier fulfillment offers at least satisfy the shipment specific criteria.

18. The system of claim 14 wherein said dynamic market engine comprises an instruction selected from the group consisting of a first instruction configured to deliver said electronic shipment requests to the remote carriers in response to a remote carrier search of said system or a second instruction configured to automatically notify the remote carriers meeting the carrier access criteria.

19. A system constructed and arranged to facilitate commerce between shippers and carriers, said system comprising:

a) an interface communicating with remote systems in a network environment to accept electronic shipment requests for available shipments and to accept carrier fulfillment offers, the electronic shipment requests identifying shipment specific criteria and carrier access criteria; and

b) a dynamic market system including a dynamic market engine, a database and an open market services interface constructed and arranged to interpret the electronic shipment requests and store the interpreted electronic shipment requests in the database, the dynamic market engine cooperating with the open market services interface and the database to present said electronic shipment requests to remote carriers meeting the carrier access criteria, receive carrier fulfillment offers responsive to said presented electronic shipment requests and present said responsive carrier fulfillment offers to the remote shippers originating said electronic shipment requests.

20. A system constructed and arranged to facilitate commerce between shippers and carriers, said system comprising:

a) a rule-based database including shipper business terms and carrier business terms;

b) an interface communicating with remote shippers and carriers in a network environment to accept electronic shipment requests for available shipments and carrier availability; and

